IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

SOPER, Jon.C., et al.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Before the first Office Action on the merits and the calculation of fees, please amend the present application as follows.

The Amendments to the Specification are on page 2.

The Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3.

The Remarks begin on page 6.